

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 EUR-25 CU-04

DRC-01 /126 W

----- 029418

R 010135Z FEB 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9431

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLUL HI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 1131

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJ: REHABILITATED CADRE DIES

REF: 1973 HONG KONG 4427

SUMMARY. WANG CHIA-HSIANG'S PASSING WAS HONORED BY HIS "OLD COMRADES," INCLUDING CHIEF REHABILITEE TENG HSIAO-PING, WHO DELIVERED THE FUNERAL EULOGY. SEVERAL PROMINENT LEFTISTS STAYED AWAY. END SUMMARY.

1. WANG CHIA-HSIANG, ONCE CHINA'S TOP KREMLINOLOGIST, DIED JANUARY 25 AT AGE 68. WANG WAS REHABILITATED LAST MAY DAY, AND NAMED TO THE TENTH CENTRAL COMMITTEE IN AUGUST. ACCORDING TO RED GUARD MATERIALS, BOTH PRO-SOVIET AND PRO-U.S. TENDENCIES FIGURED IN WANG'S FALL A DECADE AGO, AS DID A LETTER MAO WROTE WANG, CHALLENGING WANG TO DENOUNCE KHRUSHCHEV (REFTEL).

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2. WANG'S FUNERAL WAS VERY MUCH A REHABILITEES' AFFAIR.

SENIOR REHABILITATED CADRE TENG HSIAO-PING GAVE THE EULOGY, WHICH DISCREETLY SKIPPED THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION PHASE OF WANG'S LIFE. LED BY CHOU EN-LAI, THOSE ATTENDING INCLUDED RECENT REHABILITEES ULSNFU, AN EX-POLITBURO ALTERNATE, AND TSENG CHIH, WIFE OF ONE-TIME BOSS OF CENTRAL-SOUTH CHINA TAO CHU.

3. PROMINENT LEFTISTS CHIANG CHING (MADAME MAO) AND WANG HUNG-WEN WERE LISTED AS HAVING EARLIER "PAID THEIR RESPECTS" TO WANG CHIA-HSIANG'S "REMAINS." BOTH, HOWEVER, STAYED AWAY FROM THE FUNERAL (AS DID LEFTIST FIREBRAND YAO WEN-YUAN), WHICH ADDED TO THE EVENT'S "OLD COMRADE" AURA. CHANG CHUN-CHIAO ATTENDED.

4. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE HIS RETURN TO THE POLITBURO, TENG HSIAO-PING WAS LISTED IN OTHER THAN STROKE ORDER. HE SEEMS TO RANK ABOUT FIFTEENTH, AFTER FELLOW VICE PREMIER LI HEIEN-NIEN AND BEFORE CHI TENG-KUEI AND OTHERS PROMOTED TO FULL POLITBURO MEMBERSHIP LAST AUGUST. THE RANKING WOULD INDICATE THAT TENG IS NOT A POLITBURO STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBER.
ALLEN

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